

August 27, 2014

Dear South Dakota Board of Education,

Over the last year, the school section of SDLA has been reviewing the Administrative Rules of the school library media endorsement.

We support the following Administrative Rules for the school library endorsement and school library media specialist certificate: 24:15:06:17 and 24:15:09:02.

However, it has come to our attention that there is an additional Administrative Rule (24:15:03:08), which would allow individuals to obtain an endorsement in school library media without a bachelor's degree which is in conflict with the previous administrative rules.

As a representative of the school section of SDLA, I would like to express our concern over the wording in Administrative Rule 24:15:03:08; which includes school library/media endorsement programs with other stand-alone certificates.

Including the library/media endorsement program with these certificates has created an option in which those without a four year degree may obtain an endorsement in school library/media. Endorsing individuals without a bachelor's degree is inconsistent with our philosophy of providing highly qualified professionals for our students.

We would like to request that the words "school library/media endorsement program" be removed from the list of stand-alone certificates in Administrative Rule 24:15:03:08.

By removing this wording, we can clear up any confusion about the expectations of this endorsement, which is intended to be an endorsement to an existing teaching certificate and not a stand-alone certificate.

I appreciate your interest in creating the clearest and highest professional expectations for our certified teacher/librarian staff within the state in the 21st century.

Thank you so much for your consideration in this matter,

Sharlene Lien



School Section Chair

South Dakota State Library Association